



U.S. Sentencing Commission

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NEWS RELEASE

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SYMPOSIUM ON ECONOMIC CRIME AND NEW TECHNOLOGY OFFENSES TO BE HELD OCTOBER 12-13

*Lockheed Martin's Executive Committee Chairman Augustine,
Deputy Attorney General Holder and FBI Director Freeh to Speak*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 5, 2000) — The U.S. Sentencing Commission will present its Third Symposium on Crime and Punishment in the United States on October 12-13, 2000. The symposium, "Federal Sentencing Policy for Economic Crimes & New Technology Offenses," focuses on current economic crime sentencing and the ways in which new technologies have impacted the landscape of criminal activity. The Commission is co-sponsoring this symposium with the Committee on Criminal Law of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the American Bar Association White Collar Crime Committee, and the National White Collar Crime Center. The event will be hosted by The Tech Center of the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, VA.

Norman R. Augustine, Chairman of the Executive Committee at Lockheed Martin Corporation, will deliver the dinner keynote address. Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder and FBI Director Louis Freeh are the other keynote speakers at the two-day event.

The symposium's purposes include

- (1) discussing issues related to current sentencing practices regarding economic crimes;
- (2) providing input to the Commission regarding proposals to re-target punishment severity for these offenses; and
- (3) discussing the novel forms of criminal activity that new technologies have created (*e.g.*, denial of service attacks, cyberterrorism, and the misuse of data encryption); the ways in which new technologies are being used to further "traditional" criminal activity (*e.g.*, fraud); and the implications for federal sentencing policies.

The symposium will be attended by approximately 200 invited guests from the federal legal community –

federal judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and probation officers – and from academia and industry. Among the industry participants will be a number of representatives of prominent new technology companies (*e.g.*, AOL, Microsoft, and Yahoo) who will provide input to the Commission and the federal legal community.

The symposium will be webcast live and archived for later viewing. Both the webcast of the proceedings and the archived video will be viewable from the Commission's web site at www.ussc.gov.

The first day of the symposium will focus on sentencing policy for economic crimes generally, while the second day will focus on new technology offenses (*e.g.*, Internet fraud and intellectual property theft). Discussion on the first day will cover a wide variety of topics, including the contributions of social science to sentencing policy; proposals to modify punishment levels for economic offenses; and the ways in which the federal sentencing guidelines measure harm caused by economic offenses. The second day of the symposium will focus on how aspects of new technology offenses (*e.g.*, data encryption, mass file-sharing, and generating e-mail viruses) alter the way traditional crimes are committed. The Commission hopes that the symposium will enhance understanding of the nature and magnitude of economic crimes and that the discussions and research generated by the proceedings will assist in the development of more appropriate and effective sentencing policies in these areas.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission, chaired by U.S. Circuit Judge Diana E. Murphy, is an independent agency in the judicial branch of the federal government. The agency was organized in 1985 to develop a national sentencing policy for the federal courts. The resulting sentencing guidelines structure the courts' sentencing discretion to ensure that similar offenders who commit similar offenses receive similar sentences. Since nationwide implementation in January 1989, federal judges have sentenced more than 500,000 defendants under the guidelines.■